

CITY OF HAYWARD

AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE 05/15/01

AGENDA ITEM _____

WORK SESSION ITEM WS3

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Sidewalk Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council review and comment on the policy regarding the construction of new sidewalks.

BACKGROUND:

Last year, when the Council discussed the Capital Improvement Program budget, it was observed that a resident on Baumberg Avenue inquired as to why the City was not responsible for installation of sidewalks, curbs, and gutters on his street. He was particularly concerned because of the nearness to a school. As the question raised a number of policy questions, it was included as a budget objective to be addressed this year.

The City's design and improvement standards require that curb, gutter, and sidewalk be constructed with each new development. However, there are many public streets within the City that do not have sidewalks, and usually curbs and gutters as well. This condition exists because: 1) when the roadway was originally constructed, the area was considered rural or semi-rural, such as portions of Hayward Boulevard and Second Street; 2) the streets were annexed from the County, such as Rex Road and Baumberg Avenue; 3) the streets were in the Industrial area and per the standards of the time, were not required to install sidewalks, such as Cabot Boulevard; or 4) a combination of these conditions.

Because curb, gutter, and sidewalk improvements in front of a property are the property owner's responsibility, the City has not dedicated Capital Improvement Program funds towards their construction, unless the construction was done in conjunction with other work along the street, as happened on the federally-funded "A" Street and "D" Street widening projects and on the recent City-funded Orchard Avenue project. Also, it has been City policy that curb, gutter, and sidewalk be constructed prior to the annexation of County areas and, in several cases, this construction was funded by the formation of an assessment district. Occasionally, the City has convinced a developer to provide some sidewalk improvements beyond the development limits, as occurred along Mission Boulevard with the Twin Bridges project. In general, property owners on streets without curb, gutter, or sidewalks have been told that with

the exceptions noted above, it is the City's policy to not fund these types of frontage improvements, and that they are the property owner's responsibility.

Beginning in 2002 and extending over the next twenty years, Measure B will provide the City with at least \$320,000 a year for non-motorized transportation improvements, such as sidewalks and bikeways. Staff believes it is appropriate to dedicate a portion of these Measure B funds, perhaps \$200,000 per year, towards the construction of new sidewalks along City roadways where none currently exist. This \$200,000 would fund the construction of about 2,000 feet of sidewalk, assuming that the project also includes the installation of curbs, gutters, and street trees; relocation of existing mailboxes, fences, or walls; joining existing driveways, and doing some minor drainage improvements. At times, it might be cost effective to combine two years' funding to provide \$400,000 for the construction of about 4,000 feet of sidewalk per year and to also add to the project some pavement rehabilitation or reconstruction funds, so that the adjacent roadway is upgraded at the same time.

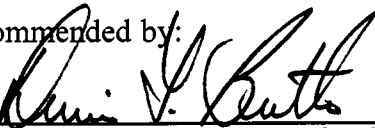
Since available funding would only allow a small program compared to the need, a prioritization method would be necessary. Staff recommends that priority be given to heavily traveled pedestrian areas, especially near schools or recreation areas and where there is heavy vehicular traffic. Staff has included, in its draft Capital Improvement Program, an annual project that could be used to implement this sidewalk program and seeks Council's comments on the proposed approach.

Submitted by:



Robert A. Bauman, Deputy Director of Public Works

Recommended by:



Dennis L. Butler, Director of Public Works

Approved by:



Jesús Armas, City Manager